

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed, August 12, 2004 ("Office Action"). At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner allows Claims 6-9. The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 10, 15, and 18-20; and objects to Claims 2-5, 11-14, and 16-17. Applicants amend Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 10, 12-13, and 18. Applicants cancel Claims 2 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants add New Claim 21, which adds no new subject matter.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's acceptance of the drawings filed on December 10, 2001.

Rejections and Objections

The Examiner rejects Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,920,220 issued to Takao et al. ("*Takao*"). The Examiner rejects Claims 10, 15, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Takao*. The Examiner objects to Claims 2-5, 11-14, and 16-17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants amend Claim 1 to include the limitations of objected Claim 2. Applicants amend Claim 10 to include the limitations of objected Claim 11. Applicants add New Claim 21 to recite the limitations of Claims 10, 15 and objected Claim 16. All of these amendments are in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions regarding objected claims. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1 and 10, all of their respective dependent claims, and New Claim 21.

CONCLUSION

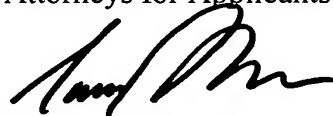
Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Samir A. Bhavsar, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6581.

Applicants enclose a check in the amount of \$86.00 to cover the cost of additional claims. Although Applicants believe no other fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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